

From: NIKKI WHITTLE
To: Microsoft ATR
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I realize the Tunney period closes on Monday for the Microsoft Settlement. Being a resident of Washington, a tester of Microsoft software, and a person that recommend technology to other including seniors, I feel that the entire suit brought by the government is ridiculous. I also am someone who has worked with micro small businesses mainly minority owned for several years. I have spent my entire business life watching businesses struggle with cash flow and struggles to meet obligations and tax payments. I understand how hard it is to grow and get a chance with the big guys. However I also realize that it is extremely expensive to be innovative. I suggest that the smaller guys learn to work with the big guys rather than use the courts to control competition.

I train many people that are retired or homemakers who have never used computers before. I can't imagine what it would be like for them if they had to deal with their operating system and their browser separately. Face it Netscape just didn't keep up with the wants and needs of people. I could see computer manufacturer's putting in two browsers for your choice, but to break up the company would be adding to the frustration most people have with who to talk to on any problem.

I heard and read in the news all the arguments from the competitors, those terrible things Microsoft said in sales meetings. Well I beg you to sit in on any sales meetings of any companies that are successful, probably even some that aren't too successful. That is how businesses rally the troops.

As far as hurting the consumer which is the basis of this suit. Hurting us? Microsoft has built a better mouse trap. They are truly interested in figuring out what the public wants and needs. Their pricing is very competitive and they also offer many ways to get into software at reduced costs.

It's time to get this thing settled, I think it has hurt the industry in general and hurt the economy. Let's get back to the work at hand and let Microsoft have the freedom to innovate.

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